

2002 STAR SCORES

REGIONAL HIGHLIGHTS AND QUOTES

August 29, 2002

LOS ANGELES REGION:

In **Los Angeles Unified School District**, the state's largest, strong four-year gains were posted in both math and reading. In math, 40 percent of students scored at or above the national average, compared to just 27 percent in 1998 – an increase of 70,000 students performing at or above the national average.

In reading, the four-year increase was from 23 percent to 31 percent scoring at or above the national average – moving more than 47,000 students to that benchmark.

On the California Standards Test in English Language Arts, LAUSD students improved 2 percentage points from last year, moving from 18 to 20 percent of students performing at or above the statewide goal of “proficient.”

In **Los Angeles County**, overall student achievement improved since 1998, jumping from 31 percent to 38 percent of students scoring at or above the national average in reading, and from 36 percent to 49 percent at or above the national average in math. Those increases mean 120,000 more students are reading at or above the level of their peers nationally. And over 180,000 more students have reached that benchmark in math.

Pasadena Unified Superintendent Dr. Percy Clark, Jr

“Our district posted strong gains on the SAT-9 for a fourth year in a row in the elementary grades. The Governor's targeted assistance in textbook funding, proven teacher training programs and an emphasis on statewide academic content standards are helping our students to excel academically on a challenging and rich curriculum.”

Burbank Unified Superintendent Dr. Gregory Bowman

“All of our students benefit from standards-based learning. All subgroups of students have shown marked improvement. The standards are keeping our eye on helping underperforming students or those at average levels improve. If it hadn't been for the leverage of California's assessment and accountability system, California's academic standards reforms would not be taking place.”

Paramount Unified Superintendent Jay Wilbur

“At Paramount Unified schools, we have embraced California's standards, assessment and accountability plan for improving schools. Our guideword is ‘focus,’ and the focus is on student achievement. We've trained 450 teachers on the state reading standards this summer, have adopted proven reading instructional programs, and we continue to gather assessment data, determine areas of strength and weakness and work to improve performance.”

BAY AREA

In **San Francisco County**, 3,183 more students were reading at or above the average of their peers nationwide in 2002 compared to 1998. In math, 5,004 more students reached or exceeded the national average benchmark between 1998 and 2002 – an increase from 55 percent to 62 percent of all students.

In **Alameda County**, the four-year gain in students reading at or above the national average was from 45 percent in 1998 to 51 percent in 2002 – an increase of more than 12,000. In math, an increase of from 47 percent to 60 percent– 21,576 more students -- performed at or above the average of their peers nationwide. On the standards-based English language arts test, Alameda County students in grades 2-11 posted a 2 percent increase over last year, from 37 to 38 percent of students testing at proficient and above. This translates into almost 3,000 additional students achieving proficiency over the past year.

Oakland Unified schools have shown improvement this year as the district continues to implement instructional reforms. This year, 2,167 more Oakland students were reading at or above the national average than in 1998. In math, 3,244 more students were performing at or above the average of their peers nationwide.

Under the leadership of Oakland Unified Schools Superintendent Dennis Chaconas, the infrastructure to support student achievement has been built. More than 100 administrators and 600 teachers attended the Governor's Institutes in standards-based training over the summer.

SACRAMENTO

In **Sacramento County**, reading scores increased by seven percentage points, from 42 to 49 percent of students reading at or above the national average between 1998 and 2002. That's an increase of 16,700 students. Increases in math performance were even more impressive, jumping 15 percentage points from 43 to 58 percent of all students, or nearly 28,000 more students, reaching or exceeding the average of their peers nationally.

Sacramento City School District's scores have increased so dramatically over the past four years that the district was among just four urban districts in the United States cited in a new study outlining how some of the nation's fastest improving urban districts are boosting student achievement and narrowing the gap between

San Francisco Unified Superintendent Arlene Ackerman

"San Francisco test scores are the best the district has had in several years. In addition to the positive results for the student body as whole, the scores of African American, Latino, and English language learner students have improved. These are the students who have consistently been part of the achievement gap."

Oakland Unified Superintendent Dennis Chaconas

"We've undertaken immense changes in Oakland public schools. The quality of both teachers and administrators has improved greatly with training on California's high academic standards. Two and a half years ago we had 700 teachers on emergency permits and 14 administrator positions unfilled. Today, we have only 35 teachers on those permits and every administrator position filled. We're feeling very positive about the movement we've made and know we have much to do. Oakland Unified will be the starship of urban education across the country."

Sacramento City Unified Superintendent Jim Sweeney

"While I am pleased by Sacramento City's progress since 1998, our district is anxious to have all our students jumping over the high bar created by California standards. We've been helped immeasurably by the state's accountability system, support for training teachers and funding to reach out to parents through home visits."

white and minority children. The district has successfully focused on standards-based reform and accountability.

Elk Grove Unified schools posted an 11 percentage point increase in reading since 1998, with 54 percent of all students reaching or exceeding the national average, compared to 43 percent in 1998. In that four-year period, a total of about 5,400 more students reached or exceeded the average level of their peers nationally in reading. Math scores increased 19 percentage points, from 44 percent to 63 percent – 7,500 more students – reaching or exceeding the national average since 1998.

Elk Grove Unified
Superintendent Dave Gordon

“Our elementary students continued their strong achievement on the STAR, and we are pleased that middle school students showed notable improvement. I am pleased to see that our Title I schools – and our neediest students – are continuing to show dramatic gains. Our teachers are working very hard to teach all children to high standards, and we are seeing the results.”

SILICON VALLEY

In **Santa Clara County**, reading scores increased by five percentage points, from 51 to 56 percent of students reading at or above the national average between 1998 and 2002. That’s an increase of 11,104 students. Increases in math performance were even more impressive, jumping 12 percentage points from 55 to 67 percent of all students, or 19,831 more students, reaching or exceeding the average of their peers nationally.

Santa Clara County posted a one-year, 2 percent gain across all grades, from 43 to 45 percent of students scoring at proficiency or above on the English language arts standards test. This translates into an increase of nearly 3,000 more students achieving proficiency.

San Jose Unified School District posted a 7 percentage point increase in reading since 1998, with 51 percent of all students reaching or exceeding the national average, compared to 44 percent in 1998. In that four-year period, a total of 1,764 more students reached or exceeded the average level of their peers nationally in reading. Math scores increased 18 percentage points, from 43 percent to 61 percent – 3,565 more students -- reaching or exceeding the national average since 1998.

CENTRAL VALLEY

In **Fresno County**, four-year gains on the SAT9 translate to 7,000 more students reading at or above the national average, and 13,600 more students at or above that national average in math.

Percentage increases jumped from 33 percent to 38 percent at or above the national average in reading, and from 38 percent to 49 percent at or above the national average in math.

Fresno County students also made gains on the California Standards Test in English Language Arts, jumping from 23 percent to 27 percent of students scoring “proficient” or above. That’s more than 2,000 students scoring at or above the state goal of “proficient.” (Note: Fresno Unified School District scores are delayed because of late test-taking cycles at year-round schools).

In **Stanislaus County**, reading scores improved 1998 from 38 percent to 43 percent of all students reaching or exceeding the national average – an increase of more than 5,600 students. Math scores also increased, from 42 percent to 53 percent over four years, resulting in almost 10,000 additional students reaching or exceeding the national average. More than 1,200 additional students reached or exceeded proficiency on the California Standards Test in English language arts between 2001 and 2002.

Kern County reading scores improved over four years from 33 percent to 38 percent, meaning an additional 7,800 students reading at or above the national average. In math, scores improved from 35 percent to 48 percent, or over 14,500 students reaching or exceeding the national average. On the standards-based English language arts test, over 1,300 more students achieved proficiency over last year.

INLAND EMPIRE

In **Riverside County**, reading scores increased 7 percentage points, from 35 percent to 42 percent of students reaching or exceeding the national average – an increase of 24,571 students in four years.

Math scores jumped 15 percentage points, from 37 to 52 percent at or above the national average, an increase of nearly 43,000 students.

On the standards-based English language arts test, Riverside County schools posted a one-year, 1 point increase in students testing at proficient and above,-- an increase of 6,500 additional students achieving proficiency.

In **Riverside Unified**, reading scores are up from 39 to 43 percent, an increase since 1998 of 2,376 students reading at the national average over the past four years. In math, there was a 12percentage point increase, from 41 to 53 percent, moving an additional 4,179 students to the national average or above.

San Bernardino County reading scores improved by 6 percentage points, from 33 to 39 percent of students reading at or above the national average—an additional 25,107 more students reaching that benchmark. In math, the countywide score increase was 15 percentage points, from 35 to 50 percent reaching or exceeding the national average – an additional 48,000 students reaching that benchmark.

On the standards-based English language arts test, San Bernardino county schools posted a 1 percent increase in students testing at proficient and above. This translates into almost 5,800 additional students achieving proficiency over the past year.

SAN DIEGO

San Diego County reading scores increased 5 percentage points, from 46 to 51 percent – or 29,691 more students reading at or above the national average. In math, the increase was 11 percentage points, from 49 to 60 percent of students reaching or exceeding the national average benchmark, or 48,064 students.

In the **San Diego City School District**, the second largest district in California, nearly 9,000 additional students are reading above grade level since1998. Nearly 11,000 additional students are performing at or above grade level in mathematics. On the standards-based English language arts test, schools improved by 2 percent in students testing at proficient and above, meaning 2,100 more students achieved proficiency since last year.

Riverside County Superintendent of Schools Dave Long

“We’re pleased that we’ve achieved our fourth consecutive year of improved student performance. Without school reform initiatives launched in the last few years, and without the focused collaboration between local school districts, boards, principals and teachers, our students, especially those in our most challenged schools, could not have made these solid gains.”

San Diego City Unified Superintendent Alan Bersin

“Our district-wide school improvement agenda, with significant support from the Governor's education initiatives, is dedicated to providing our teachers with more effective access to the professional skills and knowledge they need to provide rigorous, high-quality standards-based instruction to all of our students. One of the most encouraging trends is that, with growth across the board, the achievement gap continues to narrow.”